

# IDENTITY, COMMUNITY, PURPOSE

# Jesus

In order to be obedient to God change is absolutely necessary.

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! 2 Corinthians 5:17*

*19 So Elijah went from there and found Elisha son of Shaphat. He was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen, and he himself was driving the twelfth pair. Elijah went up to him and threw his cloak around him. 20 Elisha then left his oxen and ran after Elijah. "Let me kiss my father and mother goodbye," he said, "and then I will come with you." "Go back," Elijah replied. "What have I done to you?"*

*21 So Elisha left him and went back. He took his yoke of oxen and slaughtered them. He burned the plowing equipment to cook the meat and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he set out to follow Elijah and became his servant. 1 Kings 19:19*

*11 For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Jeremiah 29:11*

God's conversations with our hearts often begin long before his invitations for us to obey.

God's plans to give us a future and hope require us to give up both the sinfulness and the successes of our past.

*"Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 35 For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. Mark 8:34-35*

Instead of thinking that Jesus calls us to do certain things or perform certain functions, we need to realize that He is inviting us to go to new places.

God will give the world a better future and hope and he will do it through us his church if we are obedient.

*You are the salt of the earth. Matthew 5:13*

Instead of only asking “what would Jesus do?”, we need to be asking “Where is Jesus leading me?”

*You are the light of the world. Matthew 5:14*

*The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. John 1:5*

“The road to faith passes through obedience to the call of Jesus. Unless a definite step is demanded, the call vanishes into thin air, and if men imagine that they can follow Jesus without taking this step, they are deluding themselves like fanatics.” -Dietrich Bonhoeffer